

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 7 and 10 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wirz. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Wirz in view of McCartney.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended. Claim 17 has been canceled.

Wirz describes a sheet-supporting transfer drum (see Fig. 9, reference numeral 16) with a perforated surface and which is connected to a suction device so that air is blown out of or sucked into the transfer drum through the perforations and a sheet to be transferred properly contacts the cylinder guiding surface (see column 7, lines 21-31 and 59-68), as described in the Background section of the present application.

Wirz is not a chill roll as understood by one of skill in the art. However to further clarify the chill roll of the present invention, claim 1 has been amended to recite:

the drum defining a coolant inlet and a coolant outlet for circulating a coolant through an interior space in the drum, the interior space being separate from the pathway for the air.

Support for this limitation is found in claim 17 and in Fig. 1 of the present invention, for example, which shows passageways 22 providing a pathway for the air in the porous layer 20, and a separate coolant interior space 15. (See specification at [0031] and [0032]).

The interior coolant section defined by drum 12 and the passageways 22 are separate.

In Wirz, the interior space cited by the Office Action is merely used for the air, which passes to the outer layer. Wirz thus does not have an interior space for coolant which is separate, i.e. not in fluid connection, to the pathway for the air in the porous layer.

Since Wirz is concerned with a transfer roll and not a chill roll and its interior space is already filled with connected air, it also is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to provide such a separate coolant in the Wirz device in view of the prior art.

Withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 1 and its remaining dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been amended to recite "the chill roll having a circuit for circulating coolant, the circuit being separate from the pathway for the air." Wirz does not have such a circuit for coolant separate from the air pathway, and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 18 and its dependent claims 19 and 20 is respectfully submitted.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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